COMMANDERS DIGEST

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SecDef's Posture Statement Details Significant Trends

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara has counseled congressmen to look beyond the immediate concern of the Southeast Asia conflict to other developing international trends which may have even greater significance to our national security.

Mr. McNamara said one of the trends to watch is the continuing clash between the two Communist giants, Red China and Russia.

Another trend of significance is the growing awareness among Southeast Asia and Pacific nations that their future security and well being depend importantly upon their ability to work together in strengthening the military, economic and political cohesion of all non-Communist nations in the area.

Mr. McNamara made the statements before a Senate Armed Services subcommittee, the so-called "Posture Hearings."

Must Preserve NATO

Turning to Europe, Mr. McNamara said we would welcome better means to achieve security but that "in the meantime, we believe the military strength and, above all, the political unity of the NATO powers in Europe must be preserved."

He mentioned Soviet readiness to reach agreement with the West on less controversial issues but he also balanced this against continued Soviet efforts to cast West Germany in the role of Europe's greatest menace. He concluded the time is not yet ripe to view Soviet policy as benign.

Concerning Communist countries, he said the dispute between Red China and the Soviet Union has now reached a point where the Soviet Union is not only renewing the exchange of bellicose statements but is also strengthening its military posture in response to serious border problems with China.

Mr. McNamara also said events in Red China over the past months have forced a reexamination of basic assumptions, specifically that the Peking regime was monolithic and a relatively peaceful transition of power from Mao's rule was possible.

While giving his global picture, Mr. McNamara cautioned against minimizing the Vietnam Conflict. "It continues to be the key test of the Red Chinese version of the so-called Wars of National Liberation which they hope will sweep the world."

AIR OPERATIONS CONFERENCE—Maj. Gen. L. B. Robertshaw, CG, 1st Marine Air Wing (left), confers with RAdm. David C. Richardson, Commander, 7th Fleet Attack Carrier Striking Force, on board the USS Kitty Hawk in the Gulf of Tonkin off Vietnam. Gen. Robertshaw flew to the carrier from his Da Nang headquarters to discuss coordinated Navy-Marine air operations.

Army Sets New Policy For Long, Temporary Tours

Army personnel assigned to lengthy temporary duty (TDY) may have this time credited toward completion of a short tour under certain circumstances.

Those on TDY at least 11 months out of 24 will be credited with a normal short tour if the TDY is in a 12-18 month tour area, or an isolated area where DOD has not established a tour length.

A normal short tour will also be credited to those serving TDY at least 18 months during a 24-month period where the normal unaccompanied tour is 24 months.

Personnel spending 181 days or more TDY in a short or isolated tour area will not normally be assigned permanent change of station (PCS) to another short tour area until six months after they return from TDY.

New policy also calls for major commands to secure Pentagon approval before assigning personnel to TDY within overseas areas where the total TDY is expected to last more than 180 days.

Those serving TDY in a short tour area, who revert from TDY to PCS in the same area, will serve the normal tour for that area. The tour will start from the date of initial TDY assignment.

Washington Memos

NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION Battalion Four left homeport of Port Hueneme, Calif., in late January for its second eight-month deployment in South Viet Nam.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON has proclaimed February as American Heart Month. Proclamation notes that results of research are helping more and more victims of heart ailments through improved resources and facilities, training and education, and community services. A survey shows more than 27 million Americans may suffer from some form of heart disease.

GEORGE W. ALLEN, director of Foreign Service Institute, Department of State, has been reappointed to President's Committee on Employment of Handicapped for another three-year term. Committee consists of representatives of labor, industry, the professions, and national civic, veterans and handicapped organizations.

MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND representatives from MAC bases as far away as England gathered at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., for second annual Command Junior Officers Council Jan. 17-20. Event theme was "The Junior Officer and the Future," with an address by Norman S. Paul, Under Secretary of the Air Force. An estimated 250 junior officers and 43 conferees attended conference.

BACHELOR OFFICER QUARTERS at Camp Kue and Machinato Service Area, Okinawa, will be built under $2 million firm, fixed price contract being awarded to Stolte, Inc., Oakland, Calif. Contract for the two 180-man, five-story quarters is being awarded by Okinawa Engineer District.

LARGE - SCALE CONSTRUCTION and rehabilitation program which will total more than $3 million when completed is underway at Ft. Belvoir, Va. Army Augmentation Project Office officials said 21 new buildings and structures have been completed while 203 others have been rehabilitated. Program was initiated to meet the rising demands for troop training space.

A NEW POSTAGE STAMP commemorating 25 years of U.S. Savings Bonds and honoring the bravery of U.S. servicemen can now be obtained at post offices throughout the nation.

LOCKHEED PROPULSION Company has received a $1.7 million contract for delivery of solid rocket motors for Apollo project's Launch Escape System. Contract boosted to more than $10 million amount Lockheed Propulsion has received under Apollo program.

ARMY WARRANT OFFICER Flight Training will be open to high school graduates, Headquarters, Continental Army Command, Ft. Monroe, Va. has announced. All qualified men will receive orientation describing prerequisites and advantages for aviation warrant officers.

SMOKE SCREEN GENERATORS for UH-1 helicopters are scheduled for Vietnam late in January. Twenty prototypes recently developed by Army Limited War Laboratory, Natick, Mass., are slated for operational evaluation by Army airborne units. Generator can produce 1,000-meter linear smoke screen lasting two minutes in moderate winds.

SERIES OF 10 LECTURES dealing with the role of Navy and Marine Corps in U.S. Atlantic Fleet will be presented to third classmen at U.S. Naval Academy. Fourth in a series of sea power presentations, lectures will be conducted by officers representing various naval activities and will be concluded by an address by Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

FIFTY-FOUR representatives from 29 military installations have been enrolled in Army Management School at Ft. Belvoir, Va. School's student body includes ranking officers from all four military services and civilians in grades GS-11 and above. Three-week course is designed to provide greater familiarity with techniques, practices and fundamentals of Army installation management.

MICROELECTRONIC COMPUTERS for reconnaissance versions of F-111 aircraft are being developed by Autonetics under a $1.8 million contract to General Dynamics. Two computers, associate controls and displays are to be delivered to General Dynamics' Fort Worth division next May and June for RF-111 prototype program. Known as reconnaissance computer group, equipment will be watchdog over aircraft's reconnaissance avionics.

THIRD DENTAL COMPANY, 3rd MarDiv, has performed dental work for 8,000 Vietnamese patients in past six months. Officers and technicians voluntarily spend off-duty hours caring for patients in schools, hamlets, villages, and resettlement camps as part of Civic Action Program.

NAVY WILL CONDUCT preventive dentistry program for children during National Children's Dental Health Week, Feb. 5-11. Program will involve more than 200 naval dental facilities on worldwide basis. A new procedure, expected to take five minutes per patient at less than 25 cents per child treated, will be used. It is expected that more than 250,000 military dependent children will receive the decay stopping treatment.

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Background for Commanders

THE CHALLENGE CAME IN VIETNAM*

"What are we doing in Vietnam? It's 10,000 miles away!" Such a question is indicative of the somewhat provincial East Coast-Atlantic Ocean orientation which has traditionally colored our attitudes toward Asia. Vietnam is much less than 10,000 miles from our West Coast and closer still to Hawaii.

Fundamentally, the question of nearness to Vietnam must be measured in newly scaled terms. In the past 60 years, while the inhabitants of the earth have doubled, we have all been drawn together by a series of technological developments: radio, television, airplanes, space satellites, and the ominous coupling of missiles with nuclear power. Any one of these might have been enough to end isolation; in sum, they have revolutionized the relationships of man.

This rapid change has been as much political, economic, and social as it has been technological. At the end of World War II much of the earth lay prostrate. The airplane had come into its own. It foreshortened distances and left no men or places isolated on earth.

There had also been a revolution in communications, bringing new ideas and new expectations to colonial lands. Another force, long fermenting, rose to view in major dimension. Communism, given new stature by Russian war victories, renewed its international thrust. **Its aim was clearly apparent—to dominate the world scene. Its tactic was twofold: subvert the industrialized nations, and fill the power vacuum in once-colonial lands.**

The United States alone had the residual wealth, strength, and spirit to take the initiative on behalf of the free nations. However reluctantly, it moved to assume this leadership.

It soon became clear that we had entered into a continuing struggle. On the one side were those countries who wanted to create a decent world order in which nations could freely choose their own institutions, and live in peace. On the other side were those whose aim was a world of one political and economic system for all.

Those who puzzle about Vietnam today [should] first study what happened in Iran, Greece, Berlin, South Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan and Malaya during the past two decades. Had we and our allies not resisted communist aggression, how free would their peoples be today, and what kind of a world would we be living in?

The basic issue at stake can be put in several ways. General Giap, commander of the North Vietnamese Army, has stated publicly: **"South Vietnam is the model of the national liberation movement of our time. . . . If the special warfare that the U.S. imperialists are testing in South Vietnam is overcome, then it can be defeated everywhere in the world."**

Lin Pio, Communist Chinese Minister of Defense, set forth the issue in clearest detail in a manifesto which all Americans would profit by studying. He pictures a move from conquest of the so-called "rural areas"—Asia, Africa, Latin America—to conquest of the so-called "cities of the world"—North America and Western Europe. Vietnam is . . . "now the focus of the struggle of the people of the world against U.S. aggression."

We have had overwhelming evidence that the basic issue is indeed one of outright, external Communist aggression:

1. When the Viet Minh supposedly withdrew to the north in 1954, they left behind a military and political cadre to organize resistance.

2. The public statements of Hanoi and Peiping themselves include the announcement, in 1960, from Hanoi—not from South Vietnam—of the formation of the so-called "Front for the Liberation of the South."

3. We observe the alien character of the supposedly indigenous Viet Cong. The heroes of the enemy are Ho Chi Minh and General Giap, not South Vietnamese.

4. We have seen the Viet Cong employ unrestrained terror against a land which, in theory, they are defending against so-called "aggression." In 1964-65 alone, more than 2,100 South Vietnamese officials and nearly 22,000 other civilians were murdered or taken away.

5. We have the constantly mounting evidence of arms and ammunition supplied from North Vietnam, China, and other communist nations.

6. We have proof of every sort of massive, organized land and sea infiltration from the North. Regular North Vietnamese divisions have invaded South Vietnam, and the hard core Viet Cong units rely increasingly on North Vietnamese replacements.

U. Alexis Johnson recently [said]: "The question is not whether Vietnam itself, or indeed Southeast Asia as a whole, is of such political, strategic or economic importance as to justify asking our men and women to risk their lives there.

"Rather, the question is the worldwide effect of permitting the Communists to breach by force any of the lines that were drawn in the various post-war settlements. . . . The principle of self-determination is paramount. . . . Shall we merely watch as [countries] are subjected to infiltration, invasion and terrorism?"

As the leader of the community of free men, we have committed our word to the defense of freedom.

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* *Excerpts from a recent address by Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at Brown University.*

AF Secretary Praises Rescue—Recovery Units

Vietnam-based Aerospace Rescue and Recovery units won high praise from Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown for their dedication and heroic efforts in the rescue of downed U.S. airmen.

Speaking before the San Angelo, Tex., Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Brown said the ARRS units, commonly known as the "Jolly Green Giants," deserve "their immortality."

Brown pointed out that of the more than 500 persons rescued by ARRS units in Vietnam since March 1, 1965, 254 were highly trained pilots "who have been brought back to fly and fight again some other day."

Brown traced the buildup of ARRS personnel and equipment in Vietnam from a small rescue center at Tan Son Nhut, consisting of a major and two airmen, in early 1964, to the present two-squadron level of 1,100 personnel and 49 operational aircraft "devoted solely to air rescue."

All Services to Increase Pilot Training in FY68

Increased pilot training programs for all military departments during FY68 have been attributed to a large number of WW II trained pilots coming to the end of their careers, rotation requirements in Vietnam and an increase in the Army's aviation program.

Defense Secretary McNamara told Congress the FY68 budget "includes funds to increase the number of pilots being trained by the services to the annual rate of approximately 13,500."

He said the Air Force planned annual output had been increased from FY67's 2,956 to 3,492 in FY68, the Navy from 2,200 to about 2,525, and the Army from 3,700 to 7,500.

"About 90 percent of the new Army pilots will be trained for helicopters, up from about 50 percent in FY66," Mr. McNamara said. Most of the new Army pilots will be warrant officers, he added.

FRONTIER ASSAULT PLANNERS —Col. Duane D. Davis, USA (left), U.S. Army Alaska signal officer, and Col. L. G. Clarke Jr., USAF, assistant chief of staff for communications and electronics, U.S. Alaskan Command, discuss communications problems for Exercise Frontier Assault, a joint, combined 10-day winter field exercise which kicked off Feb. 1.

Selection Board to Pick 700 New AF Colonels

About 700 Air Force lieutenant colonels will be selected for promotion to temporary colonel when a board convenes at Randolph AFB, Tex., March 20.

Between five and six thousand lieutenant colonels are eligible for board consideration. Approximately 1,400 are in the 1946 year group being considered for the first time.

This "out-of-cycle" colonel selection board is unusual, officials said. Normally, the selections are made during the second quarter of a fiscal year. It is possible another board will meet later in the calendar year, officials disclosed.

It was pointed out that previously the colonel allocation was based on about 45 percent of officers eligible for the first time, compared to about 50 percent for the March selections.

The Air Force Officer Grade Limitation Act of 1966, signed by President Johnson on Sept. 26, increased field grade officer ceilings until June 30, 1972.

Defense Plans to Reduce Recruit Training Backlog

Defense Department plans to reduce the recruit training backlog of Reserve Enlistment Program (REP) personnel to its normal level of less than 20,000 by the end of June 1967.

As of December 1966, the number of men in the National Guard and Reserve Forces awaiting basic training was 120,000. A peak of 135,000 untrained men in the Reserve Force was reached in May 1966.

Presenting these facts and figures to Congress, Defense Secretary McNamara also said active force recruit training loads also are expected to decline during FY68, from 995,000 for all Services in FY67 to 920,000 in FY68.

The service-by-service breakdown of FY68 recruit training is: Army 577,000; Navy 141,000; Marine Corps 96,000, Air Force 106,000.

Mr. McNamara noted the Army has expanded its recruit training facilities by 100 percent during the Vietnam build-up and can now produce 13,500 basic trainees each week.

Satellite Performance Called Excellent by DCA

Performance of eight new Defense communications satellites put into orbit Jan. 18 continues to be "excellent," according to Maj. Gen. John B. Bestic, USAF, deputy director of the Defense Communications Agency.

The eight additional satellites, plus the seven launched for DCA last June 16, make up the satellite portion of the Department of Defense Initial Defense Communications Satellite Project.

The two satellite groups will be dispersed around the earth above the equator at an altitude of about 18,200 nautical miles. They were launched by the Air Force from Cape Kennedy, Fla.

Engineering tests indicate that the new satellites are capable of handling voice traffic.

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